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Prince Bernhard Scholarships for Nature Conservation (PBS)

Frequently Asked Questions on the application procedure

- **I am a WWF staff member of a National Organization/Programme Office. Am I eligible to apply for a Prince Bernhard Scholarship?**

Yes, WWF staff members from those regions covered by the Prince Bernhard Scholarship scheme are definitely eligible to apply.

- **What will happen to my application once it is received by a WWF office?**

It will be submitted to a first screening by the WWF Office together with the other applications received by that office.

If your application passes this first screening, it will be forwarded to WWF International in Switzerland to be submitted to the Selection Committee which meets annually in mid-March to make its final selection.

Candidates whose application does not pass this initial screening will be duly informed by the WWF Office to which they submitted their application.

- **I do not have yet an acceptance letter confirming I have been accepted in the institution where I am planning to study**

Tick the case "will send it on dd.mm" on your application form and write down the date you expect to be able to forward it.

Be aware that if at the time of the final selection we have not received your confirmation of acceptance/inscription, your application will not be considered.

- **Why should I study in my home country or region?**

The purpose of the Prince Bernhard Scholarships for Nature Conservation is to encourage and support individuals in their conservation efforts for their country/region. Therefore, it is rational to have people trained for country-specific needs, and to accumulate experience in their own country or region.

Furthermore, by studying in one's own country or region, the course fees are reduced as there are little or no travel costs.

- **There is no WWF Office or WWF Associate Office in my country**

Consult the list of WWF Network contacts on the PBS website www.panda.org/scholarships and choose the office that is located nearest to your home country.

- **I am living in a different country from where I plan to pursue my career. To which office should I send my application form? The one in the region where I come from, the one in the region where I am planning to work after my studies or the one in the region where I am now living/studying?**

Send your application form to the nearest WWF Office in the region where you come from and where you will go back to work in conservation. Please do not send your application to the WWF Office in the country where you are doing your studies if this is in a different region to your home country.

- **How many applications are selected to receive an award each year?**

At this stage, the Prince Bernhard Scholarship Fund is able to award approximately 20 scholarships each year.

- **I have already received a Prince Bernhard Scholarship. Can I apply again?**

Yes, but if you apply again, be aware that preference may be given to candidates who have not previously received a Prince Bernhard Scholarship.

- **I am also applying for another WWF sponsorship programme. Can I still apply for a Prince Bernhard Scholarship?**

Yes, you can. But you need to provide full information on the amount you are applying for in the other WWF sponsorship programme.

- **Am I able to apply for a Prince Bernhard Scholarship for a course by correspondence?**

Yes you are.

- **When will I know if I have been awarded a Prince Bernhard Scholarship?**

The successful candidates are notified by WWF International as soon as the PBS Selection Committee has made its selection, usually during the month of April each year.

Once all winners have confirmed their acceptance, WWF International informs those who have not been selected. That way, if a candidate has had to give up his/her application, the grant he/she was supposed to receive can be offered to another applicant.

Examples of candidates who have received a scholarship:

1. A successful candidate from Peru has a B Sc. in Agronomy and a Post Graduate Degree in Agricultural Production and Rural Development. She is working as an Agroforestry Outreach Co-ordinator, managing natural resources with an emphasis on palms. This candidate has been granted financial assistance to pursue a three week course on Rural Development based in the Management of Tropical Natural Ecosystems.

2. A successful candidate from Gambia has a Diploma in Wildlife Management from the College of African Wildlife Management. He has worked as a wildlife ranger and is now assistant to a research and development officer. This candidate has been granted a scholarship for a two month International Course on Wetland Management.
3. Another successful candidate from Indonesia has a Degree in Zoology and a position of Assistant in Ecology Research Co-ordination. He has been granted support to complete a Master of Science in Remote Sensing which will last one year.